



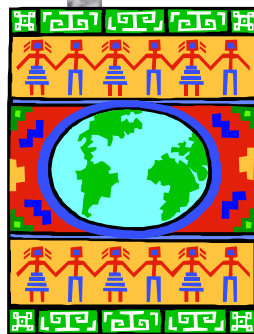
The Violence free Education, Training and Outreach Newsletter

Spring, 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

Working Together: The First Step

When the domestic violence movement began in the United States the initial goal was to bring the reality of domestic violence to the forefront. Erin Pizzey's 1974 book, "Scream Quietly or The Neighbors will Hear," brought forward the plight of battered women and the reality that women were dying at the hands of the person who claimed to love them. As early as 1978 a grassroots move-



ment was underway and organizers and volunteers fought hard to bring the "new social problem of domestic violence" to the forefront and worked to create laws that would help battered women to become safe.

The movement has evolved over the last twenty-five years. We have seen an increase in

laws that hold abusers accountable for their behavior. Individuals who are battered now have access to more services and assistance than they did in the not so distant past including civilian police advocates, court based advocacy, shelters/safe homes and counseling services.

The recent trend in domestic violence services has been to promote agency collaboration and

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Birth of a Good Idea: **V**iolence free **E**ducation, **T**raining and **O**utreach VETO)

Violence free Education, Training and Outreach or "VETO" is a Plymouth County Collaborative that was established in 1998 to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Today the members of the collaborative are working together to bring services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and provide outreach education and training to community providers and educators.

Domestic violence, including sexual assault, is a leading cause of injury to women throughout the United States. The VETO collaborative mission is to create a coordinated approach to direct services and community education throughout Plymouth County. To that end, VETO members are reaching out to community agencies

to create a comprehensive network of agencies to provide resources, identify gaps in services and share strategies to address this serious social problem. A top priority for VETO is providing supportive services for victims while holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.

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The VETO Newsletter

The Coordinated Community Response Corner ~ Police Trainings Start

In September of 2004 the Department of Justice awarded the Hingham Area Coordinated Community Response with funds to expand on their Coordinated Community Response grant which is based out of the Hingham District Court. The participants in the grant include: District Timothy Attorney Cruz's office, Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph MacDonald, South Shore Women's Center, Womansplace Crisis Center and Brockton Family and Community Resources. The three new police departments involved are: Hanover, Hull and Rockland with Hingham, Norwell and Scituate police departments continuing their participation. The collaborative is embracing the opportunity to work closely with six police departments as we continue increase the communities response to domestic violence.

The grant has allowed for the participating agencies, Brockton Family and Community Resources and South Shore Women's Center to add three civilian advocates to the grant. BFCR has hired an advocate to cover Rockland Police Department for 12 hours per week, and South Shore Women's Center has hired two new advocates to cover Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Norwell, Rockland and Scituate. Womansplace Crisis Center provides sexual assault services to all six

police departments. The grant also enabled the Scituate Police department to utilize funds for a full time domestic violence police officer, Suzanne McDonough.

One focus of the grant is to develop and design a police education training program that will highlight the complexities of domestic violence. The goal of the trainings are to increase awareness about the complex issues that may exist during a domestic violence response and create a coordinated police response



*Imagine a world
without fear.*

throughout the six police departments.

Three of the four trainings in the first series have already occurred. The trainings have been organized into six hour programs. Every police officer in each of the six police departments will complete the programming. The last training will be held on May 12, 2005.

The first three trainings proved to be very successful events. Part of the success was due to the varied curriculum that was offered to the officers. Introductory domestic violence education was one component of the

training. Maura Landry of Womansplace Crisis Center presented on sexual assault and the current date rape drugs, a sexual assault survivor also spoke to the police officers. Batterer intervention information was provided through BF & CR by Tammy Mello, Catherine Stowe, Wayne McAlister and Christine Pancyck. There was a presentation on the newly established Child Advocacy Center by Robin Anapol and Nicole Bloom. A comprehensive legal update on domestic violence was provided by Assistance District Attorney Courtney Cahill. Nationally renowned Randolph Police Chief Paul Porter discussed pertinent issues relating to police response in domestic violence

cases. His training included how to identify the dominant aggressor, best arrest practices as well as how to effectively collect evidence when responding to a domestic violence call and an arrest has been made.

The grant allows for a second set of trainings that will be offered in the fall of 2005. The focus of the trainings will continue to promote an integrated police response to domestic violence.

Every police officer from the Hanover, Hingham, Hull, Norwell, Rockland and Scituate departments will participate in two comprehensive trainings of how to create and work within in a community integrated response to domestic violence.

Agency Response: A Womansplace Crisis Center

Welcome to the first collaborative newsletter! It is particularly appropriate for this initial issue to be released this month because April is nationally designated as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. April is a time when many organizations across Massachusetts

and our nation focus on the issues of sexual assault by organizing public events and en-

gaging community partners to address the social and legal problems of sexual crimes against children, adolescents and adults. It is also a time to honor the survivors of these violent crimes.

It is imperative for our first newsletter to speak to the many important issues and questions that are current in the public imagination. The recent media coverage of the behaviors of several adolescents at Milton Academy is just

one example of the many different sexualized encounters by teens that have been disclosed over the past several years. These are examples that *have become public*, and portray similar disturbing themes. Some of the themes and questions that

we must consider to explore include:

- How do adults and teens understand healthy sexual relationships?
- When are behaviors understood as abusive, coercive, violent and destructive?
- How do the laws addressing sexual abuse/misconduct intersect with our cultural and social underpinnings and practices?
- How do members of our society negotiate the confusing and disturbing messages offered by the many images of popular culture that distort human bodies (particularly

women's bodies) and sexualize children?

- Why are there so few messages that depict healthy, non-sexualized expressions of affection or messages that idealize some form of non-violence?

Sexual Assault Awareness Month has a simple and extensive mandate. The vision is to bring to the public the need to recognize, discuss and explore the *silent* occurrence of the many forms of sexual violence and to define in practice the respect of others through healthy relationships free from all forms of violence.

In Massachusetts, and specifically in Plymouth County, we are working collectively towards accomplishing these goals. There are many interdisciplinary coalitions focused on preventing sexual assault and harassment and dedicated to supporting survivors of sexual violence. These collaborations are working hard to

"Sexual assault is a problem rooted in the very fabric of our society, in how we learn to treat one another and in what we learn to expect from our relationships, our families and our institutions. It is a crime of violence that affects women, men and children in all economic, social and ethnic communities. The impact of sexual assault is felt not only by survivors who suffer long-term emotional, mental health and physical repercussions, but also by our entire society that bears the social and economic consequences for sexual assault."

~ From a publication produced by Jane Doe, Inc. (The Mass. Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence) Taking Action Against Sexual Assault, (June 2001).

The VETO Newsletter

The Visitation Center in Brockton

Brockton Family and Community Resources, Inc. (BFCR) Visitation Program would like to update you on the status of our visitation services. BFCR has been operating a visitation program in Brockton since 1991 and currently provides visitation services for victims and their children in Brockton, Quincy, Roxbury and Hyannis.

Two years ago, BF&CR formed a partnership with the Easton Police Department. As a result of that collaboration the Easton Police Department and BF & CR received a federal grant from the Office of Violence Against Women: Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange

Grant Program. The collaborative is now conducting supervised visitation and monitored exchanges with the use of a "Mobile Unit." This is the nation's first such project!

The Mobile Unit was created in order to meet the needs of those families who do not have visitation centers accessible to them in their communities or do not have transportation to access safe, existing centers. The Mobile Unit, a thirty-six foot Bounder RV, has had significant renovations completed with the focus on creating a warm, friendly place for both children

and their parents. The mobile unit is fully equipped with a bathroom, kitchen, microwave, age appropriate games, toys and arts and craft materials and has

been conducting safe visitation services in Plymouth and Bristol County for over a year. This past fall the grant was extended and BF & CR has received permission to extend the services are to include Barnstable County as well as offer extended services in Plymouth County.

For more information please contact Tammi Mello, Director, Visitation Services at 508-583-2045 ext. 103.



Violence free Education, Training and Outreach or VETO

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VETO members include Brockton Family and Community Resources, Inc., Highpoint Treatment Center; SAFEPLAN, Plymouth County District Attorney' Timothy Cruz's Office, Plymouth County Sheriff Joseph MacDonald Office, South Shore Women's

Center and the Womans-place Crisis Center. VETO welcomes your feedback in learning more about how to provide comprehensive care in the Plymouth County communities. To obtain more information about VETO please contact Assistant District Attorney Courtney Cahill at 508-894-

6322.

~ Pat Kelleher
Executive Director
Brockton Family and
Community Resources.



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Please visit the
VETO
Website at:
Www:pcsdma.org/
veto.htm

Working Together: The First Step

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provide more comprehensive services to families that are experiencing domestic violence. Law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, substance abuse programs and battered women's agencies are working together to create a cohesive response to domestic violence.

In 1998 in response to the need for greater collaboration and community awareness, the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office, Plymouth

County Sheriffs Department, Brockton Family and Community Resources, Womansplace Crisis Center, South Shore Women's Center, High Point and the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assis-

tance joined forces to create Violence Free Education, Training and

Outreach (VETO). Since it's inception, VETO has played an integral role in bringing forth greater community awareness about domestic violence and sexual assault. Veto has developed

and hosts a website (www.pcsdma.org/veto.htm) and has hosted a well attended domestic violence training. This newsletter is the latest addition to disseminating pertinent information to the community.

We hope you enjoy the first issue. Please participate in this newsletter with your articles, artwork and photography so that it can emerge as a an interactive forum about how to address and solve the problems of domestic violence and sexual assault within the community.



Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP) hold bat-

terers accountable for the violent and abusive choices they make. BIP teaches batterers to recognize what are abusive behaviors, how their abuse affects their partners and children, and provides alternatives to abusive behaviors. Abusive behaviors include physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse. Battering behavior is not about anger management, it is about power and control. Anger is a tactic that batterers use to maintain control over their victims. Victims of batterers are usually intimate family members, partners,

Batterer Intervention Programs at High Point

children, parents and/or children. Anger management programs focus on violence ,which is usually directed toward stranger or non-intimate violence.

BIPs are certified by the Mass. Dept of Public Health. They are specifically designed to work with domestic violence offenders for a minimum of 80 hours. Some participants are encouraged or required to attend beyond 80 hours if it is assessed and formal linkage with a battered women's agency. If the victim chooses the program can remain in contact with her

and provider her with referrals, safety planning and information that may help protect her children. BIP facilitators must complete 24 hours of specialized training at a certified site and 12 hours of observation of groups.

Abusers are capable of change if they are motivated and willing to commit to a long process of self honesty. The abuser must be held fully accountable for this use of violence by a community that establishes and enforces consequences for abusive behavior.

~ Kathy Spear, Program Director

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A Womansplace Crisis Center

help survivors of sexual assault and to minimize re-traumatizing victims by the very systems that are trying to support them. These collaborations continue to grow by including other non-traditional community partners including medical providers, faith-based organizations, caregivers, businesses and the media.

Education and dialogue are the ingredients needed to effectively address the endemic issues of sexual assault. The agencies active in addressing the problems of sexual assault need to continue to work together to identify successful approaches to helping

survivors and to expand awareness and education to the public. Expanding the engagement of citizens, schools, media, social organizations and civic organizations in public dialogue can create models that promote healthy sexual relationships and non-sexualized forms of affection. These models can help facilitate an understanding of how to feel good about our bodies, how to have positive self-esteem and appropriate personal boundaries. These models can help challenge the current messages from popular culture that frequently dismantle our bodies into parts and promote idealized bodies that are

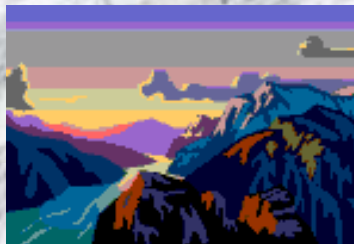
unrealistic. These models may help to confront forms of violence as depicted in the media, in entertainment and in sports which contribute to the erosion of healthy relationships, foster an abuse of personal power and in general desensitize our reactions to violence.

In the wake of the current public discussions, and given the emerging discourse concerning how *we* understand and address the problems of sexual assault, there is one mandate that *all* community members need to consider. *We* must engage in the hard work of recognizing and exploring topics that often make us uncomfortable

About and Around in Plymouth County

Cell Phones for Safety

The *Safe Home Project* at BF & CR receives funds for donated, used cell phones. Each \$105 raised pays for one nights emergency shelter for a woman and four children including transportation and meals. Call BF& CR at 800-281-6498 to make a donation that can help protect victims of family violence.



Victim Rights Fair

The Plymouth County District Attorney's Office will be doing a Victims Rights Fair at local malls in honor of National Crime Victims Rights Week. Information and brochures will be available. The Sheriff's Department will be doing fingerprinting for children. The South Shore Women's Center will have the Clothesline Project there.

Friday, April 15th *
Kingston Mall 1 to 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 16th
Hanover Mall 10 to 4 p.m.

Flowers for Victims

Womansplace Crisis Center is sponsoring "Flowers for Victims" a speak out which honors victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Please join us as we unite with our community to take a stand against violence. The event starts at 12:00 on the steps of the Brockton Court House.

For more information call 508-588-8255

Young People without Homes National Conference

The focus will be on the issues of child and family homelessness, it's effect on young children and will include a cross-systems training including networking opportunities.

April 27 – 29th.

See the Jane Doe website for details.

2005 Victims Rights Conference

MOVA will be the sponsor of this years conference.

Keynote speakers will be:

Debbie and Rob Smith

April 14, 2005

Call MOVA at 617-727-5200

Gala

South Shore Women's Center

May 20th

Black Rock Country Club

Hingham

Please join in for a celebration!

Integrating Services for

Substance Abuse,

Domestic Violence

and Mental Health

Institute for Health and Recovery

April 28—29th

See Jane Doe Website for details.

"In Their Name"

Sponsored by Womansplace

May 14th 7p.m. to 10 p.m.

Stone hill College

Wellness Fair

May 22nd

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Radisson Hotel

Plymouth

Sponsored by the

South Shore

Women's Center

Your Opinion Matters

VETO would like to hear from you!

Please send in an article about your agency,
your personal experiences as a victim/
survivor, a story about your front line work or
other experiences that you feel that others
should hear about.

The VETO newsletter also welcomes
submissions of original
artwork and photography.

*All submissions are subject to approval by
the editor and are potential fodder for editing.*



VETO CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about Veto or its members,
Please contact:

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We would like to thank Sheriff Joseph MacDonald for making the printing of this newsletter possible. Thank you for your generosity for the use of the Inmates Print Shop.

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Working Together Today
for a Tomorrow that is
Free from Violence

Visit us on the web at:
www.pcsd.org/veto.htm

